

George Macomber will be missed by many, but his legacy of generosity, entrepreneurship, and extraordinary athleticism will live on for years to come. He will be sadly missed.

EVERY LIFE IS PRECIOUS

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in defense of innocent life. My wife Jacque and I are blessed with seven wonderful children, each with their own unique gifts that they bring to the world.

I am and always have been pro-life. I am also opposed to Federal funding of abortion.

On January 6, the House sent the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act to the President's desk. This bill would have made Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the United States, ineligible for much of the Federal funding it receives, instead reallocating those funds to provide for other women's health centers.

Unfortunately, the President put politics ahead of policy and vetoed the bill. The fight is far from over.

This year on the 43rd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, I join many Americans in mourning the death of the more than 56 million babies who have been lost. The bill passed by Congress is proof the American public is determined now more than ever to maintain the standard and principle that every life is precious and must be protected.

CALIFORNIA WATER LEGISLATION

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform that even if the El Nino rains and snows continue, the drought crisis in California is not over. The need to get California water legislation passed and signed into law in Washington and Sacramento is more urgent now than ever.

While the people I represent are hurting and over 1 million acres of some of the most productive farmland in the world goes unplanted, people in our country and around the world, sadly, go hungry. If this El Nino effect continues, there will be an opportunity to move water to arguably the driest part of California, which I represent a part of. Therefore, Congress must pass legislation that can provide short-term relief so water can be delivered to the San Joaquin Valley, because the livelihood of our farmers, farm workers, and farm communities depend on it. There still is time.

We have a broken water system in California. It is time we fix it. Failing to pass legislation to fix our broken water system is irresponsible and a disservice to all Californians, including the people who I represent.

TERRORISTS ATTEMPTING TO COMMIT GENOCIDE AGAINST CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the most ancient Christian communities of all are in the Middle East where faith has been handed down in unbroken succession since the Apostles. It is there that terrorists are attempting to commit genocide against Christian believers.

To an alarming extent, they are succeeding. For the first time in 16 centuries, there is no Catholic Mass offered in Mosul. Christians were once 15 percent of the population in Syria. Now, they are less than 5 percent. The percent in Egypt has been cut in half. ISIS has over 100 Christians captive, even as we speak.

Christian refugees are often afraid to stay at United Nations camps due to the threats of violence even there. As a result, there are disproportionately few Christians among those granted refugee status by the United States. Only about 3 percent of Syrian refugees admitted into the United States are Christians.

While Christians are perhaps the most threatened group of all in Syria, the United States must not allow another genocide to happen on our watch, and we must ensure that we are helping those who are most vulnerable.

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF HAITI EARTHQUAKE

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck the nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010. Today marks 6 years since the magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck some 15 miles south of Port-au-Prince, which is Haiti's population center and the seat of its government.

The aftermath of the quake was unimaginable. It is estimated that as many as 316,000 people perished and nearly 1.3 million were displaced. This tragedy struck in a nation already hobbled by grinding poverty, health disparities, and food insecurity.

Today, there remain approximately 147,000 internally displaced people in Haiti with countless others remaining displaced outside of IDP camps.

The world and the American people, though, responded to the earthquake with compassion and generosity. To date, the U.S. has contributed billions to recovery efforts, along with donors from around the world.

The Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, which I introduced in the House—it was a bipartisan effort with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN—which President Obama signed into law 2 years ago, provides critical oversight

and reporting to ensure that aid be delivered in the most effective way possible. Unfortunately, more work needs to be done.

□ 1230

PAYING RESPECTS TO NEIL RATCHFORD

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respects to Neil Ratchford, who passed away peacefully on Sunday at the age of 87.

Mr. Ratchford was born on November 1, 1928. He grew up and lived his entire 87 years in Guyton, Georgia.

He will be remembered as the sausage man because he made hot meat sausage, a family tradition since 1898. He continued this family tradition until 1999, when he passed along the business to his son-in-law.

Throughout his life, he stayed community- and family-minded, believing that the best committee meetings were those with three members and two absent.

For over 50 years, along with his friend Lawton Nease, he spearheaded the 5th Sunday Men's Breakfast, which brings fathers and their sons together for a morning of faithful worship at the Guyton United Methodist Church.

He was a man of few words but believed you should make your words count. In the end, he joins his wife, Mary Olive, having lived a long, fruitful life raising four children and two grandsons, who now attend my alma mater, the University of Georgia.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

A BANNER YEAR FOR THE LAS VEGAS VALLEY

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, 2015 was a banner year for the Las Vegas Valley. We broke records by welcoming more than 42 million visitors from around the globe to enjoy all that Las Vegas has to offer, and that is thanks to the hardworking men and women at our hotels, our restaurants, shops, casinos, and the supporting industries and agencies.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge Rossi Ralenkotter and his team at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. The LVCVA has made Las Vegas not just a great place to live and work and visit, but also a brand that is recognizable worldwide.

Last week I had the pleasure of hosting Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx in my district for a tour of the Consumer Electronics Show and a roundtable with local government transportation, tourism, and economic development leaders. We discussed the